SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

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CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

editorial

United - States responsibility

THE tension in South Viet Nam continues. The Paris Agreement's most essential provisions continue to be systematically and seriously violated by the US and the Saigon administration. Instead of being brought to an end, the hostilities have flared up with violence in some areas. Battalion, regiment and even division size actions have been going on. Bombings and strafings by hundreds of flights of jets have been mounted. The fiendish "pacification" program has been stepped up even in hurricane-hit areas. In the Saigon zone, democratic liberties continue to be suppressed, famine is raging, epidemics are prevalent. The 200,000-odd political prisoners remain prey to victimization, torture and massacres. Tens of thousands of more people have been arrested and thrown into concentration camps.

The Saigon regime has just proposed an emergency meeting to consider the present alarming situation. The US Secretary of Defence has heaped absurd charges on the DRVN and threatened resumption of the bombing of Indochina. The US and Saigon have tried to shift the blame for the present explosive conjuncture onto other people. The former has denied all part in it except for the role of a bugbear holding the balance for the two South Vietnamese parties to execute the Paris Agreement. But facts show that its responsibility for the current crisis is unquestionable and unqualified.

AS public opinion has pointed out if it were not for US instigation and master-minding, the Thieu gang would not dare break the pledges taken in Paris. It has been able to maintain its apparatus of repression and war and to launch tens of thousands of inroads into our zone, hundreds of thousands of police raids, and thousands of air strikes and to push up its "pacification" program, only because the US has poured into South Viet Nam hundreds of thousands of tons of arms and ammunition, hundreds of aircraft and other war engines, increased its military aid for Thieu to beef up his army and police and consolidate his fascist dictatorship. From 10,000 the number of American military advisors in civilian guise has shot up to 24,000. Many US "civilian" agencies have been set up which are actually camouflaged former military organizations supervising Saigon implementation of US war plans. All this deception is to hoodwink about the "termination of US military role" in South Viet Nam. But US deeds in the last ten months have let out its cloven hoof. The presence of a US general in Pleiku to discuss an encroachment operation on Chu Nghe is a piece of damning evidence revealing the US hand in all land-grabbing and "pacification" actions.

SO, the US itself has been committing breaches of the Paris Agreement's most important stipulations, by directing all war activities of the Saigon regime, in an attempt to put into effect all US schemes and to weaken and liquidate the South Vietnamese people's revolutionary force, ignore the Provisional Revolutionary Government and gradually blot out the existence of two administrations, two armies and two zones of control. The present tension and the previous US war of aggression share the same origin: US neo-colonialist aggressive policy. There is no denying Nixon's stubborn continuation of US military involvement in South Viet Nam, of the implementation of his doctrine, of the use of the Thieu rule as a tool to impose a neo-colonialist domination on South Viet Nam and prolong Viet Nam's partition.

Genuine peace is simply inconceivable while the US is pursuing such aggressive and interventionist ends. No strict abidance by the Paris Agreement is possible while the US is actively assisting and conducting Saigon's military adventures. The latest threat thrown by the US Secretary of Defence on the one hand removes any doubt about US continuation of its intervention and aggression in South Viet Nam and on the other, is aimed at boosting the morale of its agents whose sabotage of peace has been invited heavier and heavier punishment. As far as the South Vietnamese people are concerned, their past record of an unyielding fight to defend their independence and freedom as well as their current devastating riposte to the peace-wreckers has given the menace a hollow and ludicrous ring.

THE US cannot shirk its responsibility for the present tension in South Viet Nam. It has come under public strictures in Viet Nam, Indochina, America and everywhere in the world for its obvious role in the present fighting. The South Viet Nam Provisional Revolutionary Government and people insist that it bring home all its disguised military advisors, end its smuggling into South Viet Nam of war materials, completely cease its military involvement and intervention in South Viet Nam's internal affairs. Such a course of action is consistent with America's interest and the American and world's peoples' wishes. Continuation of the implementation of the Nixon doctrine will only lead to bigger setbacks. History will not let the US get away with it.

SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

CRIME and PUNISHMENT

THE most grievous infringement by the Saigon administration on the Paris Agreement in the Nov. 16-Nov. 25 period was the intensification of the bombing of the liberated zone. Most violent of the post-Agreement air strikes were the ones made on Nov. 23 on many liberated villages stringing along Highway 4, from Suoi Nuoc Trong to Ca Tum. Saigon jet aircraft, flying over 130 single sorties, took turns, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., attacking population centres on a stretch of some five kilometres, causing many civilian casualties, and destroying large numbers of houses.

From Nov. 17 to 22, some 100 aircraft, using 600 bombs and a big quantity of 20-mm machine gun ammunition, heavily struck at Hong Tam and Can Le areas along Highways 13 and 17 south of Loc Ninh, Binh Long province. Serious losses were caused to the population.

Huge forces of the Saigon army conducted major operations on the High Plateaux in Dakson, Bu Trang and southern Le Ngoc (Gia Lai), in Kong Roc and Ngoc Bay (Kontum). Most of the provinces in the basin of the Mekong River came under battalion-or regiment-sized actions, which were combined with rice looting.

THE Liberation Armed Forces and people, strictly abiding by the order of Oct. 15 of the PLAF Command, devastatingly fought back, breaking many of the Saigon operations.

Particularly telling were the blows dealt at the Saigon air force. PLAF anti-aircraft and home guards in Tan Bien district, Tay Ninh province, fought in perfect co-ordination, and shot down 5 Saigon jets. From Nov. 5 to 18, liberation A-A forces in Quang Duc-Binh Phuoc, Thu Dau Mot and Tay Ninh grounded or damaged 25 Saigon war planes.

The people's forces also meted out punishment to the Saigon army right in its home bases. On Nov. 23, they shelled Cu Hanh airfield, destroying one C.130, two C.123's and wiping out 20 pilots and technicians.

The period between Nov. 16 and Nov. 23 saw very fierce counter-attacks by the liberation forces, which were the highest in intensity on the High Plateaux and greatest in number in the Mekong River delta. At the Dakson road junction, the PLAF took a toll of over 100 troops and 7 vehicles on two raiding Saigon battalions. They also intercepted Saigon trespassers in Le Ngoc (Gia Lai) and Kong Roc and Ngoc Bay (Kongtum), inflicting over 100 casualties, and seizing a great quantity of war material.

A major attack on the Saigon naval base at Xeo Ro in the Mekong River delta caused the Saigon army 12 war vessels sunk or damaged, 50 casualties, and many installations destroyed. The PLAF also co-ordinated with guerillas in repelling rice-looters and driving Saigon troops from their illegal positions.

Engaging in fighting the 15th, 401st and 451st "Civil Guard" Battalions in Mo Cay district, Ben Tre province, in the 3 days ending Nov. 18, guerillas inflicted over 400 casualties, and removed 13 army posts. In the two days of Nov. 18 and 19 in Vinh Long province, the people's forces heavily damaged 3 Saigon bases, erased 7 posts, and knocked out 150 intruders.

In My Tho province, regional liberation forces levelled 14 posts, wiped out nearly 100 Saigon men, and destroyed 4 military vehicles in the ten days ending Nov. 18.

ACCORDING to other reports, the PLAF in Thua Thien province inflicted on intruding Saigon forces some 200 casualties and recovered Peak 100 south of Khe Thai during counter-blows between Nov. 1 and Nov. 26.

In the nine months ending Oct. 28 in Binh Dinh province, the liberation forces wiped out 11,763 Saigon raiders and rice-looters, destroyed or damaged hundreds of military vehicles, and captured hundreds of guns.

THE SO-CALLED BATTLE FOR RICE

THE Western press is giving much space to the South Viet Nam battle for rice mainly fought in the Mekong Delta. What is behind all this battle for rice ?

Thieu has been trumpeting about his "economic blockade" against the liberated zone under the Provisional Revolutionary Government. Orders have been given by him that "one litre of rice carried into the liberated zone entails the death of one person" and that each household is allowed to keep only 30 litres of rice. On the other hand, he has been ruthlessly plundering the farmers' rice. Raising this to the level of a "state policy", he has deployed the whole of this administrative machinery, the greater part of his army and police to set up posts for the control, arrest and prevention of rice movement. In all rural areas Thieu's thugs break into each house and force the villagers to declare their rice reserves, then take them away totally after giving the owners a receipt. Rice is grabbed right from husking mills as in Ben Tre; in other places like Can Tho, M.113 armoured cars and infantrymen are sent to ripening paddies to loot several hectares of crops. In Vinh Long, each person is compelled to give one litre of rice and five piastres to the "Feed the soldier" funds. In Sadec the people are herded into "economic zones" to facilitate the collecting of rice. Since mid-August in Central Nam Bo 5,000 police operations have been mounted in which hundreds of thousands of tons of rice and more than one hundred thousand tons of other primary necessities have been taken away. At the end of September, Nguyen Vinh Nghi, Commander of IV Army Corps, was ordered by Thieu to call a "Rice Congress" in Can Tho to discuss ways and means to rob the people of another 400,000 tons of rice in the last quarter of 1973.

It should be stressed that the battle for rice takes place at a moment when the masses are in the direst misery.

It is known to everybody that in the Saigon-controlled zone, rice is vital for the people. Its price has skyrocketted: from 10,000 piastres a quintal in early July it has gone up to 20,000, then 25,000, then 26,000, and even 30,000 piastres in some places (for instance in Central Trung Bo). But for all that it is in short supply on the market. Thieu has closed down a number of rice agencies, prohibited traders to fetch rice from the provinces and reserved the monopoly of the trade for his own "General Department of Supply". In localities where rice was supposed to be sold at fixed price, hundreds of shops were found empty or were mobbed by big crowds of buyers who had to battle a whole morning for a place and most of them finally went home empty-handed and with torn clothes.

According to the Saigon press, in the last three months of this year, Saigon and other cities may be short of 28,000 tons of rice *(Dai Dan Toc*, Oct. 6*)*. Famine is rampant everywhere. The labouring people and those living on fixed incomes in Saigon are suffering from hunger in this very "atomic" age, they have to buy rice at twice its normal price or to dispute sweet potato and cassava among themselves *(Dien Tin*, Oct. 10*)*. The truth about the present day society is revealed in "refugees' camps" where "only half a bowl of rice is left" (*Dai Dan Toc*, August 26).

In rural areas where rice is grown peasants have to fill their stomachs with snails, vegetables, fish and that under the threat of punishment from thugs who prohibit them to do so. One half of the population of Tan Chau, An Giang province, is experiencing a severe famine. Hundreds of minority people in Binh Phuoc have been starved to death. 800,000 Quang Ngai people are in want of rice and in some places, its absence is total. Tens of thousands of refugees in camps in Khanh Hoa and Long Khanh, have had to go begging. Cases of suicide because of hunger are not rare.

To wage a battle for rice in such circumstances is a very crafty scheme indeed. Facts have shown that it is a manoeuvre of the Thieu administration not only to grab the people's rice, but also — and more importantly — to pauperize and starve the people, thereby making it possible for the rulers to achieve pacification and forcibly draft soldiers. The battle for rice, on the other hand, is meant to be a sedative for the collapsing economy in Thieu-controlled areas. Nobody is unaware that agriculture there is confronted with an uncommon crisis. The US-Thieu-instigated war has resulted in deserted rural areas, chemical-devastated fields and orchards, over one million people have been penned up in concentration camps and have not been able to do any farming and another million able-bodied men (in the Saigon army) have been turned into consumers. Ever since 1965, the people have had to live on imported rice. In early 1973, Thieu planned to import 450,000 tons of rice, but owing to difficulties facing the United States and its satellites the quantity of rice imported up to now has only run to about 60,000 tons. *Cong Luan* wrote on Oct. 27: "The Industry and Trade Ministry is now busy buying through intermediaries 140,000 tons of rice in the States but their price plus transport and other expenditures will boost the cost of a quintal to 30,000 piastres once rice has reached South Viet Nam." No one knows how much it will cost in the black market and whether the common people will get it or it will join the 117,000 tons robbed from the peasants by Thieu in the last days to feed only the police or to find its way into the storages of speculators who are close collaborators of the dictator?

One wonders then where Thieu can take rice from to meet the present shortage if ever he has such an intention?

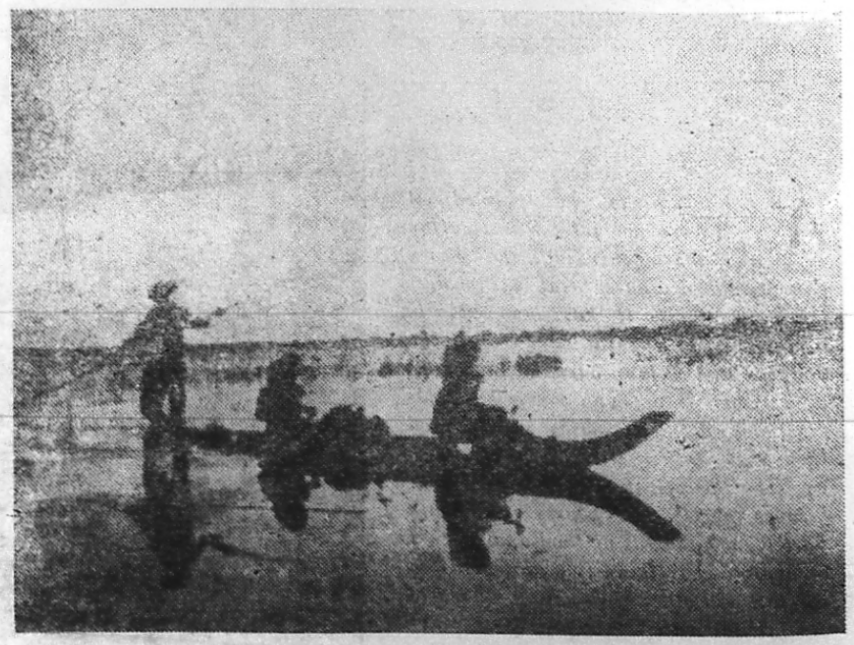
The psychowar specialists want to make believe that Thieu's current battle for rice is to pave the way this commodity flow into the cities from rural areas. But let it has been proved that it is only an expedient to feed the war with forcibly collected rice while aggravating even further rice shortage.

This explains the birth and growth of the life-and-death resistance put up not only by the peasants but also by other social segments. In many Nam Bo provinces, people have resorted to persuasion and concurrently to sticks and spears with the Saigon troopsmen and staged demonstrations before administrative services, military posts and subsector CPs for the return of their rice, freedom to grind paddy and trade in rice, and distribution of rice to prevent famine, and against declaration of property.

In An Giang, Buddhist, Cao Dai and Hoa Hao believers living at Buu Son and Ky Huong succeeded in having Thieu administration sell them from 10 to 20 litres of rice while hundreds of petitions were sent to urge the return of robbed rice.

In Quang Ngai, 30,000 inhabitants of Ly Son island, who were left without rice in the last three weeks of October, rose up with banners and sticks and beleaguered the administrative office to demand an immediate solution to the rice crisis. Demonstrations were also organized by the inmates of concentration camps at Son Tinh for rice. In some localities regional Liberation army units and guerillas have rolled back rice looters. The movement against rice-grabbing is only gusts of wind announcing the coming of a big storm which may sweep away the US-installed regime of traitors.

NGOC BAO



In the native land of the Plain of Reeds

The right path for Saigon soldier

"NOBODY wants this war any more," said an officer of the 101st battalion of the regional army in Quang Da province. That is also the widespread feeling of men and officers of the Saigon army. There is a growing realization among them that only with peace and national concord can they return to an honest life and realize their ardent hopes. They are fed up with all this burning, plundering, killing and raping in which they are urged to take part only to meet a senseless death or an insipid life after losing their limbs, their homes, their jobs and everything else... This explains why, although the Nguyen Van Thieu clique have stepped up the "political war" activities among the army by 50%, ordered a total confinement to barracks and sent "psywar" agents all the way down to each platoon and even each squad to spy on and crack down on any anti-war activity, they still are unable to dam up the smouldering movement against the continuation of the war and for peace and national reconciliation and concord which is steadily spreading among all units of the Saigon army. Collective refusals to go and plunder rice and kill civilians or to plant posts and positions illegally in the PRG zone are no longer confined to platoon or company level but have become frequent occurrences at battalion and even regimental levels. Typical of these actions was the collective disobedience of three battalions of civil guards numbers 404, 471 and 473 in Tra Vinh on October 29 when they were ordered to go to the rescue of their buddies battered by the Liberation army during an inroad into Ben Tre province. Also remarkable was the anti-war protest staged on November 2 by all the "popular defence" force and field police of the Saigon administration in Tra Vinh provincial town. Significantly, it broke out at the same time among both the "popular defence" force and the field police stationed in the same town, headquarters of the machine of repression in the province. The strength of unity and determination of all the members of these two forces finally compelled the local command to call off the operation. The anti-war feeling among the Saigon army has gained not only in scope but also in intensity and takes on a more and more radical character. The protesters have not restricted their action to resistance to marching orders but have also urged the commanders to withdraw from illegally set up posts and return the land to the population. In many cases, patriotic soldiers used a more drastic method by killing their most die-hard commanders, destroying their posts and returning the land to the people then joining the revolution side with their weapons or returning to their families.

Incomplete figures show that within only three months (July, August and September 1973), anti-war actions in one form or another erupted at nearly 300 posts of the Saigon army in various provinces of Central Nam Bo (Mekong delta). In Quang Ngai province, in October this year more than 500 Saigon soldiers left their posts and rejoined their families or went over to the people's side.

Having themselves witnessed the suffering of their fellow-countrymen and the senseless death of many of their mates during land-grabbing and rice-plundering operations and realized the policy of national reconciliation and concord of the PRG through their contacts with their relatives, more soldiers of the Saigon army have seen the path to self-salvation. That is to struggle with firmness and in all appropriate forms to get the Saigon administration to scrupulously implement the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, end the war and cooperate with PRG in working for peace and national reconciliation and concord. No scheme and no manoeuvre of US imperialism, however brutal and crafty, can make them deviate from this righteous path.

Operation Phoenix and the failure of pacification

(Continued)

ONCE the interrogation process has been completed, any prisoners still remaining alive are sent before the Province Security Committee (PSC) for further processing. The PSC is an extra-legal body composed of the Province Chief, the province police chief, and representatives of the military and police intelligence agencies, most of them have American advisors. If the Committee determines that there is sufficient evidence to convict a person in a formally constituted military tribunal, he or she is turned over to the appropriate authorities for trial and sentencing. In cases where the available evidence is insufficient to win an automatic conviction, the *an tri* law allows the PSC to "detain" a suspect for a period of up to two years which can be renewed indefinitely. *An tri* detainees are normally kept in district police jails and are not counted among the 36,000 prisoners "officially" confined in South Vietnamese prisons. Since such detainees are not included in the official tally of prisoners, their total number is a matter of speculation but estimates of 100,000 or more are not considered excessive. United States involvement in the Phœnix program does not end with the trial and sentencing of VCI prisoners: each of the 42 civil prisons in South Viet Nam, as well as the numerous local detention facilities, have received some American input including funds, equipment, training and/or advisory support from AID (3.45 million dollars since 1967), DOD, and CIA.

Even though most of this information is now public record, most American officials are loathed to acknowledge the brutal and repressive nature of Phœnix. Ambassador Colby, however, is willing to accept American responsibility in the "abuses" that sometimes occur under Phœnix. Thus when Representative William S. Moorhead of Pennsylvania commented, "I do not think it is desirable or morally right for this country to be assisting the outright evil side of this program... (but) if the Vietnamese want to do it, it is their country and their people," Colby offered this unique avowal of American responsibility for the Saigon government's atrocities in South Viet Nam:

"Frankly, I was never able to take the position that if something wrong went on over there it could sort of be left to the Vietnamese as to responsibility. I felt that our country and our government are involved in the support of the overall effort there, and there is nothing that we can say that we do not have some responsibility to improve, to do something about. Therefore I could not take that kind of philosophical position myself, by saying that it is Vietnamese and has nothing to do with me."

After hearing Colby's testimony, and collecting other data on the Phœnix program, the House Government Operations Committee called upon the Secretary of Defense to investigate "allegations of crimes committed by US military personnel in South Viet Nam against civilians suspected of Viet Cong activities." The Pentagon has neglected, however, to act on this recommendation.

Phoenix and the Politics of Repression in South Viet Nam

If Operation Phœnix had worked as planned, it might have posed a threat to the NLF's shadow government in "contested" villages. Phœnix, however, has been distorted and skewed by the same contradictions that have warped every other US pacification program in Viet Nam. Since we are committed to the maintenance of an anti-Communist, pro-war government in Saigon, we obviously cannot permit the formation of a neutralist "Third Force" that would negotiate with the NLF and terminate the war. Thus we have not interfered as Thieu, in a desperate bid for survival, co-opted the Phœnix apparatus in order to liquidate his political opposition among the non-communist Buddhists and other neutralist elements. Under South Vietnamese law, any person who "commits acts of propaganda for and incitement of neutralism" can be judged a "pro-communist neutralist" and arrested under the Phœnix program. Moreover, in Decree Law Number 004/65 of July 19, 1965, Thieu made it illegal to commit "any act in order to undermine the anti-communist spirit of the country," or to organize demonstrations or other acts for "peace or neutralism in accordance with communist doctrine." According to Don Luce, a former director of International Voluntary Services in Viet Nam, these decrees have been used extensively by government forces to imprison and otherwise "neutralize" the political opposition to President Thieu. "They have used the police against the religious leaders who were advocating peace and against the war veterans who were asking for better housing and better service to war veterans."

Leg chained in the hospital bed: one aspect of Thieu's penitentiary regime

Especially revealing is the testimony of Jeffrey Stein, a former intelligence operative who worked with Phœnix personnel in Quang Nam province. In an interview with this writer, Stein reported that after nine months in Viet Nam he found out that his key informant was a member of the Vietnamese Nationalist Party (Viet Nam Quoc Dan Dang, or VNQDD), a militantly anti-communist organization with strong ties to the Kuomintang of China. "The natural enemies of the VNQDD in Quang Nam were the Buddhists," Stein discovered, and thus he was not surprised when his informant's targets "were always specially Buddhists." In the interview, Stein recalled the following:

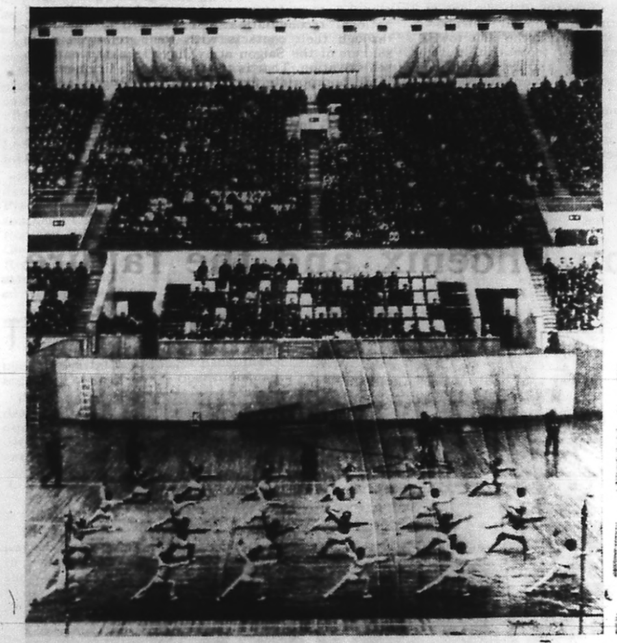
> It happened that when I levied requirements for political information on my principal agent, the targets [he supplied] were mostly Buddhists. His reports constantly cited NLF cadres using the cover of Buddhist monks, of the NLF using Buddhist youth groups as covers, constantly emphasized that Buddhist militancy was nothing but a cover for the NLF. Therefore, I duly passed this information on for a number of months to the Phœnix operatives who systematically wiped out a lot of Buddhist youth groups.

Ultimately, Stein concluded that his operation had become "a conduit of information for the VNQDD to use the US government and the Phœnix program as an action arm of political assassination to wipe out their Buddhist opposition."

(To be continued)

MICHAEL T. KLARE

FURTHER STRENGTHEN FRIENDSHIP RELATIONS BETWEEN RSVN AND PRC



Collective gymnastics performance in honour of the PRG delegation after the grand welcome meeting of the Peking population

Agreement on China's gratuitous economic aid to RSVN signed

A ceremony for signing the Agreement on the People's Republic of China's gratuitous economic aid to the Republic of South Viet Nam for 1973 was held at the Great Hall of the National People's Congress on the evening of November 20, 1973.

RSVN Foreign Minister Mme Nguyen Thi Binh and Chinese Minister for Foreign Trade Li Chiang signed the Agreement, on behalf of their Government.

President Nguyen Huu Tho and members of the RSVN PRG delegation were present at the ceremony.

Vice-Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China Li Hsien-nien attended.

Present at the ceremony on the Chinese side were also Foreign Minister Chi Peng-fei, Minister for Economic Relations with Foreign Countries Fang Yi, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Han Nien-lung, Chinese Ambassador to the Republic of South Viet Nam Wang Jo-chieh, Director of the Asian Affairs Department of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs Lu Wei-chao, and other officals concerned.

RSVN Ambassador to China Nguyen Van Quang and DRVN Ambassador Ngo Thuyen were also on hand.

An RSVN China Joint Communiqué was signed in Peking on November 21, 1973 marking an official friendship visit to the People's Republic of China by the Delegation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam headed by President Nguyen Huu Tho. The text of the Joint Communiqué follows :

"At the invitation of the Government of the People's Republic of China, the delegation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam led by Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation and President of the Advisory Council of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, paid an official friendly visit to the People's Republic of China from November 18 to 23, 1973.

During the visit, the delegation toured the capital, Peking, as well as the cities of Tientsin and Canton and came into friendly contact with the broad masses of Chinese workers, people's commune members, officers and men of the People's Liberation Army and representatives of people from all walks of life. The delegation was accorded everywhere a warm welcome and cordial reception by Chinese Party and Government leaders at various levels and the Chinese people. The delegation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam is sincerely thankful for the noble sentiments shown to them.

Chairman Mao Tse-tung met with President Nguyen Huu Tho, and they had a most cordial and friendly conversation.

The two sides held talks on further strengthening the friendly relations and cooperation between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of South Viet Nam, the present situation in South Viet Nam and issues of common interest.

The talks proceeded in a most warm and friendly atmosphere and were permeated throughout with the revolutionary sentiments of "both comrades and brothers."

The Republic of South Viet Nam side expresses its admiration and warm praise for the great achievements attained by the Chinese people in socialist revolution and socialist contruction.

In the past twenty four years, the industrious and valiant Chinese people, under the leadership of the glorious Chinese Communist Party headed by respected and beloved Chairman Mao Tse-tung have consistently carried forward their glorious revolutionary tradition, displayed the spirit of self-reliance, firm determination, hard work, and building the country with diligence and thrift, and transformed the semi-feudal and semi-colonial old China into a socialist country with a modern industry, an all-round developed agriculture, mighty national defence and advanced culture, science and technology.

These achievements of the Chinese people have contributed positively to the strength of the peoples of the world in their struggle for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress and continuously raised the international standing of the People's Republic of China.

The South Vietnamese people greatly rejoice at the great achievements scored by the Chinese people and sincerely wish that the fraternal Chinese people, inspired by the Tenth National Congress of the Communist Party of China, will win still greater successes in socialist revolution and socialist construction, so that the People's Republic of China will advance in big strides along the road of prosperity and happiness.

The Republic of South Viet Nam side resolutely supports the Chinese people in their struggle for the liberation of Taiwan province, inalienable sacred territory of the People's Republic of China, and is convinced of the complete victory of this struggle.

The South Vietnamese people take great pride in having the great Chinese people as their close comrades-in-arms and brothers. In the past war against US aggression and for national salvation and the present extremely arduous and complicated revolutionary struggle, the South Vietnamese people have always received enormous and effective support and assistance from the Chinese Communist Party and the Chinese Government and people. This assistance rendered with a full measure of fraternal sentiments was an important contribution to the Vietnamese people's historic victory and is an encouragement for the South Vietnamese armymen and people to further accomplish their glorious tasks in the new stage.

In fulfilment of the sacred behest of the great leader of the Vietnamese people, respected and beloved President Ho Chi Minh and in compliance with the desire of the South Vietnamese people, the delegation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam expresses heartfelt and profound thanks to the great leader of the Chinese people, respected and beloved Chairman Mao Tse-tung, to the glorious Chinese Communist Party, the Government of the People's Republic of China, and the heroic Chinese people for their sincere and invaluable assistance.

The Chinese side warmly hails the great victory won by the South Vietnamese people in their war against US aggression and for national salvation under the leadership ot the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam.

The signing of the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam, which recognizes the Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights and the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination, was a great victory won by the entire Vietnamese people holding high the banner of President's Ho Chi Minh's call for "Firm resolve to fight and win" and persevering in a protracted people's war. It was also a victory for the united struggle of the three Indochinese peoples and a common victory for the people all over the world.

The victory of the Vietnamese people's war against US aggression and for national salvation not only marks a new chapter in the history of Viet Nam's struggle for national liberation. It greatly inspires the oppressed nations and peoples fighting for independence and freedom, constituting a valuable contribution to, and setting a brilliant example in, the anti-imperialist revolutionary struggle of the peoples of the whole world.

The Chinese side notes with pleasure that the correct stand of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam in striving for the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the preservation of peace in South Viet Nam has won strong sympathy and support among the peoples of the whole world. The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, which is the sole authentic representative of the South Vietnamese people, is enjoying an ever higher international standing and prestige.

The Chinese side is firmly convinced that the fraternal South Vietnamese people, under the leadership of the South Viet Nam National Front or Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, will surmount all difficulties and obstacles and win even greater victories in their struggle to build a peaceful, independent, democratic, neutral and prosperous South Viet Nam and proceed to the peaceful reunification of their country.

The Republic of South Viet Nam side has given information on the situation in South Viet Nam since the signing of the Paris Agreement, pointing out that the violations of some vital provisions of the Agreement by the United States and the Saigon administration have brought about a very grave situation in South Viet Nam. The Republic of South Viet Nam side reiterates that it is its consistent position to thoroughly respect and scrupulously implement the Paris Agreement and the Joint Communiqué of June 13, 1973 and resolutely demand that the Saigon administration and the United States act in the same way.

The Chinese side highly appraises the unremitting efforts of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam for the thorough implementation of the Paris Agreement and points out emphatically that the Chinese Government and people firmly support the South Vietnamese people in their just struggle for the realization of the Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights and the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination as well as the consolidation of the fruits of victory of their war of resistance, and firmly support the six-point proposal and the other reasonable propositions for the settlement of the internal affairs of South Viet Nam put forward by the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam in the spirit of national reconciliation and concord.

Both sides condemn the acts in contravention and violation of the Paris Agreement committed by the Saigon administration with the support and connivence of the United States. The Saigon administration must immediately stop all its nibbling operations, cease bombing and strafing areas controlled by the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, return all the civilian personnel illegally detained by it and ensure the South Vietnamese people all democratic rights and freedoms. The United States should shoulder its unshakable responsibility for the implementation of the Paris Agreement, which it has signed. The South Vietnamese people are entitled to take all resolute measures to check the Saigon administration's violations of the Paris Agreement, protect the life and property of the people, defend the liberated areas and uphold the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam.

Both sides consider that at present, the situation in Indochina is undergoing great changes more and more favorable to the revolutionary struggles of the three Indochinese peoples.

Both sides are highly pleased that, under the leadership of the National United Front of Cambodia with Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk as its Chairman and the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia with Samdech Penn Nouth as its Prime Minister and Mr Kieu Samphan its Deputy-Prime Minister, the heoric Cambodian people have won tremendous victories in their struggle against US aggression and for national salvation. They firmly support the five-point Declaration made by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk on March 23, as well as the solemn and just stand taken by the National United Front of Cambodia and the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia for the settlement of the Cambodian question. The US government must stop its support for the traitorous Lon Nol clique and its interference in the internal affairs of Cambodia. The Cambodian question should be settled by the Cambodian people themselves free from foreign interference.

Both sides warmly hail the great victory won by the heoric Lao people in their struggle against US aggression and for national salvation under the leadership of the Lao Patriotic Front with Prince Souphanouvong as its Chairman, warmly welcome the signing of the Vientiane Agreement on Restoring Peace and Achieving National Concord in Laos and the Protocol to the Agreement, and resolutely support all the efforts of the Lao Patriotic Front and the Alliance of Patriotic Neutralist Forces in Laos for the thorough realization of national concord and proceeding to the building of a peaceful, independent, neutral, democratic, unified and prosperous Laos.

Both sides consider that, at present, the international situation is continuing to develop in a direction favorable to the revolutionary struggle of the people of the world. Countries want independence, nations want liberation, and the people want revolution.

This has become an irresistible trend of history. Both side voice their resolute support to the struggle of the people Arab countries, of the Asian, African and Latin American countries, and of the whole world against imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism, zionism and imperialist hegemony, and for peace, national independence, democracy, and social progress.

Both sides note with satisfaction that the great friendship and militant unity between the Chinese and Vietnamese peoples, which have stood the test of protracted revolutionary struggles, are growing stronger and developing continuously. The gratuitous economic assistance agreement for 1974 concluded between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam is a most vivid expression of the good relations between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of South Viet Nam. Both sides pledge to further strengthen their mutual support and cooperation and endeavour to foster this great friendship and close militant unity so that they will be unbreakable and everlasting.

Both sides are glad that the complete success of the official friendly visit to the People's Repubic of China by the delegation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam led by Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and President of the Advisory Council of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, has made an important contribution towards further strengthening the friendly relations between the peoples of China and South Viet Nam."

Chairman Mao Tse-tung conferring with Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho and Foreign Minister Nguyen Thi Binh

Glimpses of Saigon economy

COMMEMORATING Saigon's National Day, in fact the day of the Diem-Nhu brothers' murder by the Americans — on October 31, 1973, Nguyen Van Thieu delivered a "message to the nation" in which he did not refer to his "achievements" but to an "austerity" program for the Saigon controlled areas.

This "austerity" is no novelty. The Saigon authorities have mentioned it many times since Nixon's announcement of his Vietnamization strategy, which called for Saigon's fencing for itself. Five months ago, Nguyen Van Thieu made a statement in the same vein. Pham Kim Ngoc, the then minister of economy also called on the inhabitants to "tighten their belts."

But what is new in the call for "austerity" and "economy" is the mirage of a flourishing economy in the next few years. What are the real motives behind the move?

In the article "South Viet Nam's confrontation" in *Le Monde* (from March 29 to April 4, 1973), Jean Claude Pomonti gave this picture of Saigon economy: "Three years ago, the US expeditionary corps was like a tree whose sap fed millions of parasites. This source of nourishment has dried up without replenishment."

As everyone knows, in the period prior to 1972, apart from US economic aid, the Saigon administration drew its income from the US war of aggression; this revenue came from the exchange of red dollars of the GIs and personnel of American firms amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars a year, from the money deals between the GIs and soldiers of satellite countries on the one hand and the Thieu administration and some individuals on the other and from the sale of P.X. goods and merchandise stolen from US army stores. But this source of revenue, which was the root cause of the artificial boom in South Viet Nam ended on January 27, 1973 when the Vietnamization of the war began to be applied and the GIs were pulled out of the country. This caused an irremediable deficit to the Saigon budget. "All economic activities ground to a standstill; the misery of the masses was conspicuous." The Saigon society has changed its face and turned very shabby with the "rush for rice which becomes a routine for all families" (*Dien Tin*). Rice fetches prices 2.5 times higher than at the beginning of the year, and grows scarcer and scarcer. According to the Saigon press, salaries and wages of middle-ranking officials, workers and soldiers can last them only half a month, and this was the situation in August last when the price of 100kg of rice was only 16,000 piastres against 25,000 piastres or more at present. Simultaneously the prices of other primary goods such as sugar, milk, oil, medicines, have been rising at the same rate. Only one commodity sees its value drop continually: the Saigon currency for one year now, between October 1972 and October 1973, it devaluated 9 times, sinking from 435 piastres to 535 piastres to a dollar (the free market is 555 piastres).

FALSE AND TRUE PROSPECTS

In his October 31, 1973 message, Nguyen Van Thieu advanced five short-term economic plans in which he painted a very bright economic picture in which rehabilitated "national production" would serve as a basis for "self-sufficiency" and as a "substitute for imports" (!)

Nobody in Saigon gives credence to him. For those who live from hand to mouth, this "austerity" policy and rosy picture is but a fig-leaf to hoodwink the South Vietnamese people and make them forget their misery *(Dai Dan Toc)*. It is disappointing to see that the 1974 budget of the Saigon administration depends so much on foreign aid.

As is known, the Saigon-controlled zone is a consumer society. This is a most paradoxical situation in a underdeveloped country. As a result, import are for Saigon economy and finance a factor of paramount importance as not only they provide foods, necessaries and luxury goods but earn a substantial tax income for the Saigon administration, enrich banking firms and create an artificial boom.

Imports are the main factor in the trade and services sector which accounted for 57% of the 1972 GNP of the Saigon regime. According to 8 year economic development plan the Saigon administration is to import in 1974 870 million dollars worth of goods. Where can it find that amount of hard currency? *Dien Tin* wrote on October 6, 1973 that up to early October 1973, there remained only 27 million dollars of cash, while the Saigon Ministry of Commerce and Industry was quoted by *Cong Luan* (November 8 issue) as acknowledging that no more foreign exchange would be available by the end of November 1973. With the addition of 45 million dollars eventually earned by exports, the Saigon administration would realize 72 million dollars in all. It is still short of 800 million dollars for its import plan and Thieu pins his hopes on foreign aid and loans. But there are no promising prospects in this regard.

Up to 1972, Saigon received from the US 700-750 million dollars of annual economic aid. At present, owing to Nixon's economic and political difficulties, Thieu contemplates asking for 450 million dollars for 1974 (or 41.5% of expected Saigon total revenue in 1974). Even with this, Thieu's needs are not at all satisfied. But the US Congress has approved only a 376-million-dollar aid to Saigon, Phnom Penh and Vientiane as a whole (*Dien Tin*, October 10, 1973). Thus the deficit is too heavy whereas the amount of foreign exchange in Thieu's hands is used up and the request for loans from the "International Monetary Funds," the "Asian Bank" and the "World Bank" as well as from friendly countries has elicited only a lukewarm response. Only Japan has accepted to lend something but on very harsh terms. Of course, the lack of foreign aid and the difficulties to get credits will generate uncertainty in the balance of payments and estimates of the Saigon budget. The future of its imports is very gloomy indeed! It will face a most serious shortage of goods including necessaries hence restriction of consumption to the minimum. This is one of the reasons for Thieu's "austerity" policy.

That very dark "foreign aid" prospect has put the Saigon administration in a cleft stick: either it continues to resort to inflation, or to raise more taxes to maintain budgetary balance. Chau Kim Nhan, new minister of finances of the Saigon administration made it clear that "1974 is the year in which all taxes will be collected." To this end Thieu has launched an "Everything for the Budget" campaign. Of the 453,864,378,000 piastres of the Saigon 1974 budget, an estimated 247,480,000,000 piastres is to be covered by taxes, or 55% of it, or more than twice the 1973 tax revenue (126,452,000,000 piastres).

This tax-increase and the tight control over consumption by the Saigon administration will lead to steep price hikes. The realities of the economic situation and people's living conditions in the Saigon-held areas will certainly clash with the rosy picture outlined in Thieu's October 31 message.

CAUSE OF THOMPSON'S ANXIETY

In his October 31 message, Thieu tried to shirk his responsibility by alleging that the Saigon economic and financial morass was caused by "the communists' sabotage of peace" and by the "changes in the international situation which delayed the securing of foreign aid and generated the scarcity of some commodities and the rise in prices."

There is no more glaring perversion of facts. It is an open secret that the present economic plight of the Saigon regime has been brought about by US destruction of nearly half a million hectares of ricefields and two million hectares of forests, the draft into the army and the "pacification" program which have turned an overwhelming majority of the producers into consumers. It is also the result of US neo-colonialist manœuvre to subjugate South Viet Nam economically. In the economic powwow recently called by Nguyen Van Thieu, Thompson, British counter-insurgency expert and Nixon's adviser, admitted that the Saigon economic slump was due to the fact that Nguyen Van Thieu had poured everything into the anti-communist drive. It was with full awareness of that fact, public opinion in Saigon pointed out immediately after the signing of the Paris Agreement that for the "rehabilitation, reconstruction and development" of the country, the Saigon administration must strictly observe the cease-fire and release manpower for production. In its May 25, 1973 issue, *Dien Tin* wrote: "Many people want to solve our economic problem with the "magic wand of foreign aid." In our case, to say the truth, it is peace and not foreign aid which brings lasting happiness to the people."

Blinded by their selfish interests, Nguyen Van Thieu and his ilk, egged on by the Americans, have not taken that advice and have brazenly torpedoed the Paris Agreement and set their faces against peace and national reconciliation and concord. The continuation of Nixon's "Vietnamization" is clearly shown by the Saigon administration's earmarking 465 billion piastres of its 1974 630-billion budget for military expenditure or 58 per cent of the total.

Thus, Saigon economy will be deprived of the factors necessary to "rehabilitation, reconstruction and development" namely a settled situation, manpower and financial resources, and will as a result go to the dogs.

Thieu's obduracy and bellicosity is unjustifiable. In its September 13, 1973 issue, *Tia Sang* forewarned Thieu that the South Vietnamese people "set no hopes on and have no confidence in the government, because its policy is diametrically opposed to their aspirations."

HONG TUAN

● in the cities

— The Saigon administration once again announced on Nov. 20 an official increase of prices of petrol and kerosene. Low grade petrol now costs 125 piastres a litre against 85 piastres formerly, and high-quality petrol goes up from 105 piastres to 145 piastres a litre. The price of kerosene also soars from 58 piastres to 68 piastres a litre. In July 1973, a 100 percent price hike had already been imposed by the administration on oil products. This time, the move also has sent other commodities and services sky-rocketting. For instance cab rates and vegetables are now 10 percent dearer, pork jumps from 700 piastres to 1.200 piastres a kilo, soap from 70 to 80 percent higher, etc.

Chinh Luan reported that twenty four hours after the official announcement the market situation was completely upset, a number of commodities either disappeared or saw their prices skyrocketting.

— Transport owners in 16 provinces of western Nam Bo recently suspended their activity to protest against the Thieu administration's stopping of their vehicles for checking and arbitrary fining. They also opposed the administration's decision to increase the price of oil, lubricants and car spare parts from 100 to 200 percent.

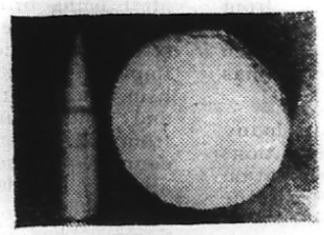
— In the wake of the Oct. 15 rigged elections, the Thieu agents in the cab drivers' trade union in Thu Dau Mot extorted from each cab-owner from 20,000 to 50,000 piastres. This predatory measure has met with stiff resistance from the trade union members who demanded that the Saigon administration put an immediate end to it, and called on the cab drivers to unite and elect a new executive of the union through democratic voting.

— On Nov. 7, trade union members of the Grall Hospital met and decided to close their ranks and use new ways of struggle to compel the hospital management to put into effect the month-old agreement on 16 percent pay rise.

— More than 15,000 retired armymen and civil servants are protesting the Saigon administration's decision to suspend their 3,000-piastres allowances.

— *Dengue* again made its appearance in Saigon. The Nov. 20 issue of *Cong Luan* denounced that the Saigon administration took no measure to curb the epidemic and treat the people affected by it. No adequate care is given to child victims brought by their parents to hospitals.

The DRVN in brief



Age-old stone bullet unearthed in Ha Noi vicinity

o According to a report by Prof Ta Quang Buu, Minister of Higher and Middle Vocational Education, at present the DRVN has 37 universities and faculties, and 200 middle vocational schools with respectively a 8,000 and 7,000 teaching staffs.

During the anti-US resistance the Medical College was enlarged and managed to maintain a fair standard in the training and at the same time push up activities to help the fighting, production and the people's health. Thousands of lecturers and students went to the front line and embattled areas.

In 1972 numerous teams gave first-aid care to air-raid victims at hospitals in Hanoi and Hai Phong and in the provinces of Ha Tay, Hai Hung, Ha Bac, Vinh Phu and Ninh Binh. When North Viet Nam came under B.52 bombings in December they served at 60 hospitals, attending to thousands of victims with examplary devotion and initiative.

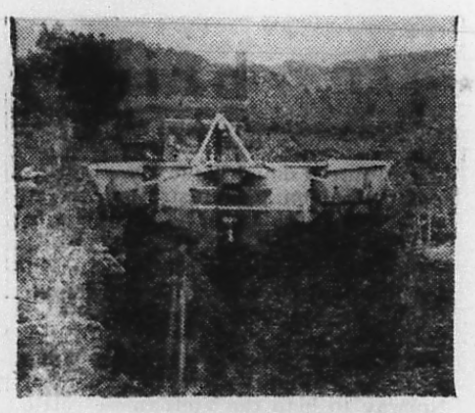
Also in 1972, 3,000 cadres and students of the college gave care or carried out researches in 16 ministries, general departments and ministerial level committees, 12 towns and cities, 80 factories at the centre and in the provinces, and in many army units.

Recently the Medical Faculty based in the highlands held a graduation ceremony for 99 students of the minority nationalities.

o In 1972 the College of Fundamental Sciences efficiently placed science at the service of production and the fighting in the fields of national defence, transport and communications, building, etc. It was credited with 100 works of different kinds,

o Also in 1972, the College of Rail and Road Communications sent teaching personnel and students to 60 places in 8 provinces to help the local cadres design a communication network for rural areas in the DRVN.

o On the Teachers' International Charter Day, President Ton Duc Thang signed a decree awarding Labor Medals and Resistance Medals to 26 collectives and individuals.



Excavator for irrigation works both in plains and mountain areas

o From early this year to October, the Sea-fishing Department of Hai Phong brought in 12,000 tons of fish, or 2,300 tons more than in the whole of 1972. In the same period Vinh Linh district, just above the 17th parallel, also exceeded the 1972 haul with 715 tons.

o The repairing of the 300m-long and 35m-high Bac Thuy bridge on the railroad between Hanoi and the Viet Nam-China frontier has just been completed.

o In the first 10 months of 1973, 6 million timber-trees were planted in Thanh Hoa province.

o With the completion of the 7th mud pool and bag storage, the rehabilitation of the Hai Phong Cement Plant has made a substantial advance.

o The Thang Long Tobacco Factory has developed a paste out of maize flour and some chemicals to replace imported gum Arabic. Its use is technically and economically advantageous.

Cambodia :

15,582 mercenaries put out of combat within 30 days

According to *AKI*, between October 15 and November 15, the Cambodian People's National Liberation Armed Forces put out of combat 15,582 enemy (including 74 senior and non-commissioned officers) and captured 4,146 weapons of various types (including two 120mm and two 105mm cannons, four recoilless 75mm guns, forty five 81, 80 and 60mm mortars) and a sizeable quantity of ammunition.

The CPNLAF also seized 47 wireless apparatuses, 30 Saigonese barges, 10 military vehicles, levelled 41 camps and posts, shot down or set ablaze 9 planes and shattered 39 armoured cars and 29 military vehicles.

Democratic jurists denounce breaches of the Paris Agreement

In the wake of the Permanent Secretariat of the African-Asian Jurists based in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, the International Association of Democratic Jurists embracing more than 80 national groups in Europe, Asia, North America and Latin America, Africa and Oceania, has just raised its voice against US-Saigon serious violations of the essential provisions of the Paris Agreement.

In its November 9, 1973 statement, it said among other things :

"The recent air bombing of Loc Ninh by Saigon which levelled more than 150 buildings and killed many civilians there, is a reminder that every day Saigon air force, taking off namely from the former US base in Bien Hoa, mounts strikes at areas under the Provisional Revolutionary Government's control. In the course of last month, more than 1,000 similar sorties of Saigon aircraft were recorded.

"On the ground, Saigon has also been staging numerous encroachment and "pacification" actions. In October, hundreds of important breaches of the cease-fire were listed, including nine of division strength.

"One has thus been witnessing a true sabotage of the Paris Agreement by Saigon, at the encouragement of the US which continues namely to pour thousands of tons of hardware and ammunition into South Viet Nam.

"The cease-fire violations have been compounded by Saigon stubborn refusal to implement other provisions of the accord, namely those concerning the return of civilian personnel still detained in its jails and the enforcement and ensurance of democratic liberties throughout South Viet Nam.

"Such deliberate obstruction to the execution of the Paris Agreement found further expression on November 8 in the refusal of Saigon representatives to resume the proceedings of the La Celle-Saint-Cloud Conference and their incessant manoeuvres to prevent the operation of various organisms provided for the implementation of the Agreement, for example the Joint Military Commission.

"Therefore the blame for this dangerous deterioration of the situation must be laid first at the door of the Thieu administration and of Washington which continues to give it massive support."

Since November 9, 1973, things have been going from bad to worse, because of fresh systematic infringements. In point of fact, on November 23, Saigon F.5's and AD.6's flew more than 100 sorties for 12 hours on end over Ca Tum and its vicinities. More than 500 bombs including "anti-personnel" bombs and rockets destroyed a hundred houses and inflicted many civilian casualties, mostly women and children. In only five days, revealed a recent communiqué of the PRG Foreign Ministry, from November 10 to 25, the Thieu regime committed 6,683 infractions of the cease-fire, including 358 encroachment operations, 5,534 police or so-called "pacification" raids, 268 artillery strike and 533 air bombing or reconnaissance missions.

The total count from January 28 to November 20, 1973 can be broken down as follows: 283,475 cease-fire violations including 33,048 encroachment operations, 202,274 "pacification" actions, 34,720 artillery poundings and 13,073 aerial sorties.

The Thieu regime's responsibility is obvious. So is the Nixon administration's because it is the latter which supplies the former's army with arms and munitions, with officering and command by the agency of a network of advisors: 3,500 in various departments of the Defence Ministry and 9,000 in army units. 9,500 in the police force and 800 in "pacification" teams. The total of US advisors and technicians runs to 25,000 or the strength of two land divisions.

Thieu's entire military and administrative machinery is kept going by US dollars. The Saigon 1974 budget's estimated outlay is 630,642 million piastres and revenue is in the region of 453,864 million or a deficit of 176,778 million.

The latter consists on the one hand of the taxes and duties levied on commercialized US aid goods and on the other of foreign aid estimated at 186 billion to be almost entirely defrayed by the US Treasury.

Like for the 1973 and previous fiscal years, the estimated expenditure is likely to be always exceeded by actual spendings whereas the expected income will never be realized. To such an extent that the *Cong Luan* (Public Opinion) foresaw on November 15, 1973 an actual deficit of 300 billion piastres to be covered by inflation which will go up by 45% in 1974.

The Saigon piastre has undergone its 9th devaluation and is officially worth 1/535th of a dollar and 1/600th in the black market. It would drop to the zero mark if it were not for US guarantee.

In a gang of evil-doers, these who plot, prepare and pay for the offence are as responsible for it as the henchmen armed and directed by them, in the eye of internal penal law as well as of the penal jurisdiction of each of the signatories to the Paris Agreement and Act.

Chile:

The revolutionary tide *is mounting*

SINCE they toppled the government of the People's Solidarity Alliance headed by President Salvador Allende, the Pinochet junta has met with a storm of protest from Chileans and world opinion.

Their terror, unprecedented in Chile's history has not at all consolidated the "order" that they want to impose on their fellow-countrymen. Leaders of the Military Council have recently admitted that they have had to deal with armed resistance by patriots in many places and face a "tense situation". After their Sept. 11 coup, they have clamped a most drastic control on the press and especially on any information about their atrocities and troubles. The scanty news leaking out of Chile has however pointed to a people's resistance in many areas. It is known, for example that in November several units of the fascist forces were attacked by patriots at Copiano, 800km north of Santiago, and at the Navy's radio station at Kintaporman. Fighting continues in the southern part of the country. In recent days the Pinochet clique have had to undertake strong police actions and searches in the very suburbs of Santiago, which gives a measure of the people's movement. Also in November, for the first time since the counter-revolutionary coup, a workers' strike broke out in the capital. All that explains why the ruling junta declared on October 26 that martial law and the emergency situation would be prolonged at least until June next year and that the state of "civil war" would last for an indefinite period.

It is to cope with the opposition of various social segments that the putschists have stepped up terroristic operations though they are aware that by doing so they will aggravate their isolation in Latin America and the world. According to information from Chile they have dismissed:

— 6,000 students and 100 lecturers and professors from the University of Conception ;

— 8,000 students and 100 lecturers and professors from the University of Chile ;

— 1,500 students and 100 lecturers and professors from the College of Fine Arts.

Those figures suffice to show the true colours of Chile's present rulers and at the same time administer an eloquent proof of their estrangement from the people of their own country.

Neither does everything go well for them in the armed forces, as proved by the junta's declaration that — Air Marshal Alberto Bachele will be prosecuted for "having incited subordinates to disobey their superiors' orders". Even the few newspapers allowed to reappear in Santiago with a view to misleading public opinion, have disclosed details about "rebellions" in the army after the coup d'etat and about cases of deserting patriotic troops handing over their weapons to the resistants.

At present Chilean reaction is carrying on large scale repression against patriotic elements in urban centres and many parts of rural and mountainous areas. They defy the most elementary human rights when dealing with the detainees under the very noses of foreign diplomats, and have gone so far as to ill-treat the Swedish and French ambassadors.

While pursuing such a fascist policy against the popular masses the Pinochet clique are doing their best to blot out the gains given the people by the administration of the People's Solidarity Alliance. According to *UPI*, 19 commandeered plantations some 700km south of Santiago, will be restored to their former owners. The same measure will apply to 100 nationalised anti-fascist enterprises.

Clearly the anti-fascist resistance of the Chilean people will be a long and hard one. It is no less clear that no reactionary force can thwart the cherished aspiration for independence, liberty and social progress of an awakened people who have had three years of revolutionary experience under the People's Solidarity Alliance.

That has been demonstrated by events after the Sept. 11 putsch. The Chilean people have now realized who their real enemy is : North American imperialism and fascism represented by the Pinochet junta.

The developments of the past three months have also borne out that the revolutionary forces and the Chilean people as a whole have earned the sympathy and strong support of progressive mankind. In the Western Hemisphere itself the spreading revolutionary tide and the weakening of imperialism have tilted the balance of forces in favour of the Chilean people. The frenzied brutality of the Pinochet clique, lackey of foreign imperialist and reactionary forces, only betrays their panic in face of countless difficulties. It will not be able to turn back the wheel of history.

Hail the Arab Summit Conference's success

ACCORDING to reports from Algiers, the Arab Summit Conference held from November 26 to 28, 1973, in that capital has achieved splendid success.

It unanimously approved many important declarations and resolutions which demonstrated the determination of the Arab countries to resist the aggression by Israel, an instrument of US imperialism. It put out a declaration on the position of the Arab countries concerning a durable peace in the Middle East. Such a peace, the declaration pointed out, could be attained only on these two conditions:

1. Israel must withdraw immediately from all occupied Arab territories, especially Jerusalem.

2. Restoration of the already confirmed national rights of the Palestinian people.

The meeting decided to intensify the use of the oil weapon and institute a "combat fund" to cover the expenditures for any new confrontation with Israel, and unanimously recognized the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) as the sole representative of the Palestinian people. It also worked out measures to support and assist the African countries' and national liberation movements' economic and social development and struggle against Portugal and the racist regimes in South Africa and Rhodesia.

Obviously, this was an achievement of historic significance for the Arab world's resistance to the Israeli aggressors, and at the same time a major gain of the national liberation in the Middle East, Africa and the rest of the world.

It has further strengthened Arab unity which is the decisive factor of final victory. In the recent flare-up, thanks to this bloc of unity, the combat strength of the people and army of Egypt, Syria and the Palestinian liberation army was considerably enhanced, making it possible for them to deal staggering return blows at the aggressors and opening their eyes to the great potential of a force they had so far not taken seriously. Also thanks to this strengthened unity, the oil weapon, within only a short time after being brought into action, has proved highly effective by shaking the strongest bastions and the ranks of imperialism and old and new colonialism, and placing Israel in an isolation and under unprecedented pressure from all sides, in particular from countries which were its erstwhile allies or friends.

The happy outcome of the Arab Summit has indicaded that for all the divergences of the member countries on this or that question, they subordinated local and regional interests to the common interests of the Arab world. This has set a brilliant example for any common fight against foreign aggression and against enslavement by imperialism and old and new colonialism.

It has also supplied fresh evidence of the complete breakdown of the US divisive policy as regards the Arab countries and its attempt to weaken and eventually stamp out the ebullient nationalist movement in these countries for the sake of US interests in this area.

The resolutions of the Arab Summit Conference are valuable contributions to the African States and the national liberation movements in Africa. More significant still, it gave a most positive response to the appeal issued by the Conference of the Councils of Ministers of the African Unity Organization issued a few days earlier. The rallying of the Arab and African countries into a common front against imperialism and old and new colonialism and against racism has generated a new, very important force and opened up bright prospects for the African continent.

The people of South Viet Nam warmly welcome the great success of the fraternal Arab peoples as their own. We are convinced that it will lead to new and still bigger ones and on this basis, the Arab countries will continue getting over the minor hurdles to Arab solidarity in order to make this firmer with every passing day and bring the fight of the Arab world to complete victory, thus contributing to safeguarding the national independence of the Arab peoples, and ensuring a stable peace in the Middle East and in the rest of the world.

in brief ★ in brief

— Tung Pi-wu, Acting Chairman of the People's Republic of China, and Chou En-lai, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, sent on November 27 a message to Nguyen Huu Tho, Chairman of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, and Huynh Tan Phat President of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, expressing deep sympathy for the people of South Viet Nam storm-stricken areas.

The Red Cross Society of China has sent five million Yuan worth of relief goods.

— At a celebration of the third anniversary of the defeat of the 1970 imperialist aggression, Guinea's President Sekou Toure reaffirmed : "The Democratic Party, the Government and the people of Guinea always stand by the Vietnamese in their struggle for the strict implementation of the Paris Agreement and the June 13, 1973 Joint Communiqué by the US and the Saigon administration, so as to ensure a stable peace in Viet Nam.

— While receiving the director of the Information bureau of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, Prime Minister Trygve Bratteli made clear the readiness of the Kingdom of Norway to help the Vietnamese settle all problems in order to guarantee a firm and lasting peace.

— The trade union of the Monteipachi Sidiena Bank in Italy presented on November 26 the PRG of the RSVN with a sum of 1,700 million lires and two gold badges worth 45,000 lires each.

On the previous day, the central printing and publishing trade union in Rome and leaders of trade unions of many big papers in Italy had held a meeting and collected 7 million lires for the *Nhan Dan* (People) printing House in North Viet Nam.

SOUTH VIET NAM CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION